

By Melodee Pedersen

Downton Abbey comes to the Library

Are you suffering from Downton Abbey withdrawal? Only caught the bug during Season Two and want to know what you missed in Season One? We've got the answer! The library has Season One and Two on DVD available for checkout, plus "The world of Downton Abbey" by Jessica Fellowes. Ms. Fellowes is the niece of series creator and writer Julian Fellowes.

For those who may not be familiar with Downton Abbey, it is a British miniseries that was shown in the U. S. by PBS. It tells the story of the fictional Lord Grantham and his family, as well as his servants, beginning in the year 1912 and through World War I. Think "Upstairs, Downstairs" on steroids. Much of the show was filmed at the gorgeous real-life Highclere Castle, the home of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon. Special Features on the third Season One DVD includes a brief interview with the current Countess, as well as a "Making of Downton Abbey" featurette. Season Two's third DVD has Special Features discussing "Fashion & Uniforms, Romance in a Time of War, and House to Hospital."

The book "The world of Downton Abbey" features many stunning photographs from the series, as well as illustrations and photographs from that time period. Enlivened by quotes from the actors and other involved in the show, as well as actual footmen and aristocrats from that time period, it sets what happened in the fictional world within what was actually happening in the real world, discussing such topics as family life, society, life in service, style, and war. The final chapter, "Behind the scenes" focuses on the show itself and reveals many details about the production. Would you ever expect the following description of how to make a realistic wound? "We got the best effect with apples, using mushrooms for the exposed bone. Soft dried fruit was the best for the layer of fat around the 'bone' and it soaked up the blood beautifully. We held it all together with gelatine and stuck it on a popsock so the men didn't have to have it on all day but could just put it on when needed."

With this feast for the eyes, we not only get a look at exquisite architecture and sumptuous fashions, but a peek at a way of life that no longer exists. The character of Lord Grantham exclaims during the show, "I have given my life to Downton. I was born here and I hope to die here. I can claim no career beyond the nurture of this house and this estate. It is my third parent and my fourth child. Do I care about it? Yes, I do care!"

The DVDs and the book were given to the library by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library in honor of someone else who cares, Diane Klug. Diane recently completed her third term on the Board of the Friends and has been unwavering in her commitment to the library and to the Friends. If you are interested in showing your support for the library by becoming a Friend of the library, membership envelopes may be found on the brochure rack near the reference desk. Upcoming Friends events open to the public are on April 15th and April 27th. The Friends, the Book Review Club and the Nebraska Humanities Council are co-sponsoring a program on the 2012 One Book, One Nebraska, titled "I am a man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice"

by Joe Starita. Mr. Starita will be the speaker for this event on April 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the library. April 27th will be the Mystery Night the Friends are co-sponsoring with the Columbus Arts Council. 10 "actors" will play murder suspects and it will be up to the attendees to try to determine "who done it" while they mingle, sip beer or wine and eat pizza.